

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus for displaying information on a screen, based on various information data provided through a plurality of information sources, comprising:

means for obtaining first index information from a first information source of the plurality of information sources, wherein the first index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source;

means for obtaining second index information from a second information source of the plurality of information sources, wherein the second index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the second information source;

means for displaying a categorized menu on the screen[[,]] based on the obtained first and second index information ~~from the first information source and the obtained index information from the second information source;~~ and

means for obtaining necessary information from the first or second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, and for displaying information based on the necessary information,

wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions and levels such that a substantial portion of the necessary information can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the necessary information is index information for displaying the categorized menu.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first information source and the information providing apparatus are connected with each other through a network, such that the index information from the first information source is obtained through the network.

4. (Currently Amended) An information providing method for displaying information on a screen, based on various information data provided through a plurality of information sources, comprising:

obtaining first index information from a first information source of the plurality of information sources, wherein the first index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source;

obtaining second index information from a second information source of the plurality of information sources, wherein the second index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the second information source;

displaying a categorized menu on the screen[[,]] based on the obtained first and second index information ~~from the first information source and the obtained index information from the second information source;~~ and

obtaining necessary information from the first or second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen[[,]]; and

displaying information based on the necessary information,

wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions and levels such that a substantial portion of the necessary information can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the necessary information is index information for displaying the categorized menu.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein obtaining index information from the first information source is done through a network.

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7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the minimum number of screens is one.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the minimum number of screens is one.

9. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first index information includes a plurality of still images indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source.

10. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for obtaining necessary information and for displaying information based on the necessary information includes

means for displaying the plurality of still images in a temporal sequence so that relationships among the plurality of still images can be view in a time series.

11. (New) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said means for displaying the plurality of still images includes

means for arranging the plurality of still images in a spiral layout, where the plurality of still images is arranged in increasingly smaller sizes toward the center of the spiral layout.

12. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

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means for controlling and moving the plurality of still images in the spiral layout, such that as more temporally current still images come into view on the outermost arm of the spiral layout, temporally older still images move spirally inward toward the center of the spiral layout.

13. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the first index information includes a plurality of still images indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source.

14. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said displaying information based on the necessary information includes

displaying the plurality of still images in a temporal sequence so that relationships among the plurality of still images can be view in a time series.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said displaying the plurality of still images includes arranging the plurality of still images in a spiral layout.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said arranging the plurality of still images includes

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concl.* arranging the plurality of still images in increasingly smaller sizes toward the center of the spiral layout.

17. (New) A method according to claim 16, further comprising:

controlling and moving the plurality of still images in the spiral layout, such that as more temporally current still images come into view on the outermost arm of the spiral layout, temporally older still images move spirally inward toward the center of the spiral layout.
